82 Science Hall 550 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706 608.263.3063 wicci.wisc.edu



WICCI Science Council Meeting

Monday, October 5, 2009 DNR Science Operations Center 12:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members

- Dick Lathrop (Co-Chair)
- John Magnuson (Co-Chair)
- Sharon Dunwoody
- Lewis Gilbert
- Bud Harris
- Jim LaGro
- David Liebl
- Philip Moy (via LiveMeeting)
- Ken Potter
- Jack Sullivan
- Bill Walker

Staff and Guests

- Alison Coulson
- Kevin Gibbons
- Steve Pomplun
- David Webb

ABSENT MEMBERS

- Signe Holtz
- Barry Johnson
- George Kraft
- Chris Kucharik
- John Kutzbach
- Pat Leavenworth

- Kristen Malecki
- Sandra McLellan
- Jonathan Patz
- Dan Vimont
- Darrell Zastrow

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- John Magnuson will speak with Don Wuebbles and make sure that he is prepared to discuss topics that are of interest to the Science Council (e.g. precipitation modeling projections).
- Jack Sullivan will follow up with Jim Hurley to see if Sea Grant can contribute funds towards paying for a science writer.
- Dick Lathrop will add "Developing Adaptation Strategies" as the last item under "Future Efforts" in the table of contents in the outline of the Adaptive Assessment Report. Energy Production will be listed as a Working Group in development.
- Kevin Gibbons will follow up with the working groups that have not submitted answers to the discussion questions and give them one additional week to reply.
- Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, David Liebl, Jack Sullivan, and Alison Coulson will meet to discuss the working group answers to the discussion questions. During that meeting they will diagnose the status of the working groups, as well as discuss and schedule working group presentations during upcoming Science Council meetings.
- Lewis Gilbert, Jack Sullivan, David Liebl, and Steve Pomplun will meet to discuss Bob Krumenaker's involvement with WICCL.

- Lewis Gilbert, Bill Walker, Jim LaGro, and Jack Sullivan will give a presentation about the potential Adaptation Strategies Working Group at the December Science Council meeting.
- Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, Lewis Gilbert, Pete Nowak, Chris Kucharik, and Bill Bland will meet to discuss the prospect of starting and Agriculture Working Group.

MINUTES

[12:06] Meeting called to order by Dick Lathrop.

Welcome and Introductions

Science Council members introduced themselves. Jim LaGro discussed his experience and his recent work with the EPA in Washington, D.C.

When asked about funding, Jim LaGro noted that there are some opportunities available with the CDC and NIH.

Announcements and Approval of Minutes

John Magnuson discussed the experience of Don Wuebbles, who will be attending the November 2 Science Council meeting. He hopes that Science Council members will be able to spend plenty of time with him while he is in Madison. Steve Pomplun noted that many people want to speak with him, so his time will be in demand. Jack Sullivan said that he hopes that the November 2 agenda will take Don Wuebbles' expertise into account. Ken Potter said that he is interested in discussing models and the most recent improvements in precision, especially regarding precipitation projections.

Action Item: John Magnuson will speak with Don Wuebbles and make sure that he is prepared to discuss topics that are of interest to the Science Council (e.g. precipitation modeling projections).

July 20 and September 1 meeting minutes were each approved unanimously.

Progress on Action Items

Steve Pomplun followed up with WCCAI and Roy Thilly will be attending a future Science Council meeting.

Working Group Workshop Overview

Dick Lathrop reviewed the outline and timeline of the Adaptive Assessment Report to other Science Council members.

John Magnuson noted that there are many responsibilities for members of the Science Council. There is a lot expected of Science Council members in April and June.

Dick Lathrop noted that Science Council members with disciplinary expertise should be requested to vet particular reports. Sharon Dunwoody agreed and added that she thinks it is a good idea to have two people read the drafts of the documents and present the document to the Science Council.

Jack Sullivan said that DNR has allocated money to hire a science writer. He and David Webb hope to identify a writer in January and bring that person up to speed so that he or she is ready to write in April.

Action Item: Jack Sullivan will follow up with Jim Hurley to see if Sea Grant can contribute funds towards paying for a science writer.

David Liebl expressed concern about the vetting process. Since the people will expertise who are members of the Science Council will be the very people preparing the reports, there should be outside reviewers.

Ken Potter agreed and noted that he hopes all Science Council members will help review the final report.

Jim LaGro agreed and said that rolling the reports in and reviewing them in the Science Council will bring new ideas to light and will improve the larger assessment report.

Steve Pomplun noted that he hopes that the working group reports will be written for a broader audience so that people interested in the topics without particular expertise will be able to read them. John Magnuson noted that it will be difficult to both appeal to a broader audience and create a defensible report.

Sharon Dunwoody and Jack Sullivan agreed that the working group reports should be both technically defensible and understandable to a wider audience. Sharon Dunwoody noted that discussion in Science Council meetings will be valuable in identifying take-home messages that will be highlighted in the reports.

Dick Lathrop reviewed the flow of the overall assessment and the working group reports. Science Council members discussed the outline and goals of the report.

John Magnuson, Sharon Dunwoody, and Jack Sullivan discussed how the working group reports will lead toward adaptation strategies. Sharon Dunwoody said that there should be a section in the assessment that discusses the range of what adaptation strategies may look like. Science Council members agreed. David Liebl noted that the California report gives only vague recommendations, and he hopes to see more specific language in WICCI's report.

Jack Sullivan also noted that there should be a section discussing the changes that have already occurred in Wisconsin's climate.

Action Item: Dick Lathrop will add "Developing Adaptation Strategies" as the last item under "Future Efforts" in the table of contents in the outline of the Adaptive Assessment Report. Energy Production will be listed as a Working Group in development.

Bill Walker said that the meaning of "adaptation" is not clear across different sectors and that the "Developing Adaptation Strategies" section should contain reviews of how adaptation is perceived by different groups.

Science Council members discussed the responses of the working groups to the questions that they were asked to answer at the Working Group Workshop. Kevin Gibbons said that eight responses have been received.

Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will follow up with the working groups that have not submitted answers to the discussion questions and give them one additional week to reply.

Science Council members expressed concern that some working groups may not have the capacity to have reports ready by spring.

Action Item: Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, David Liebl, Jack Sullivan, and Alison Coulson will meet to discuss the working group answers to the discussion questions. During that meeting they will diagnose the status of the working groups, as well as discuss and schedule working group presentations during upcoming Science Council meetings.

Advisory Committee Meeting Overview

Science Council members noted that people at the meeting were not prepared to discuss the future of climate change and adaptation. The last meeting served to confirm that the climate is actually changing. David Liebl and others noted that WICCI presenters need to take that level of knowledge into account when giving their messages.

Bill Walker and others discussed how to engage different members in the discussion and encourage them to participate. Jim LaGro added that organizations at the national level are utilizing "peer-to-peer" messaging to spread the awareness of climate change issues.

Science Council members reviewed what happened during the Advisory Committee meeting.

People noted that even though Advisory Committee members have not been able to contribute very much information, they are still very interested in staying involved and hearing about recent developments in climate change adaptation. They are willing to be led and requested that the Nelson Institute provide the leadership for their meetings.

Lewis Gilbert noted that some Advisory Committee members questioned the utility of stressing the "bright line" between mitigation and adaptation. He said that this line should be relaxed or stressed depending on the situation.

Steve Pomplun said that Advisory Committee members expressed interest in having a working group related to energy.

Science Council members praised Sharon Dunwoody's Working Group Workshop presentation. Many agreed that she should present at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

[1:55] Short Break

Outreach Update

David Liebl discussed the inception of the Outreach Committee. He said that there are about 20 members, most of whom are environmental educators. They are scheduled to meet in November and plan to discuss the rollout of the recent climate data.

Sharon Dunwoody mentioned that libraries may be an effective way to distribute information, especially to rural areas.

Steve Pomplun discussed the September release of the climate data and said that the new WICCI website should be up and running in four to six weeks.

John Magnuson noted that the Members Resources page has many useful materials for scientists to use and apply to presentations.

Steve Pomplun also noted that the WICCI newsletter has been distributed to WICCI affiliates and state legislators.

[2:18] Entered closed session.

Pete Nowak was elected as a member of the Science Council.

[2:22] Meeting re-opened.

New Working Groups

Dick Lathrop discussed the potential involvement of Bob Krumenaker. He said that he would be a great addition to the Coastal Communities or Natural Areas working groups. He also expressed interest in expanding the purview of the working group. Many members expressed interest in having Bob Krumenaker participate in WICCI. John Magnuson mentioned that he may be a good addition to the Advisory Committee. Some people also felt that he would have a lot to contribute to the Outreach Committee.

Action Item: Lewis Gilbert, Jack Sullivan, David Liebl, and Steve Pomplun will meet to discuss Bob Krumenaker's involvement with WICCI.

Adaptation Strategies

Jim LaGro discussed how land use could be incorporated into the work of different working groups. Science Council members identified land use as an adaptation strategy. He and others guestioned whether or not there should be a separate land use working group.

Lewis Gilbert mentioned that he and Bill Walker have discussed an Adaptation Strategies Working Group, rather than a social science working group. The Adaptation Strategies group could assist other working groups and "think about how to think about adaptation strategies." He seemed to think that land use could be an important part of that group.

Science Council members discussed the possibility of an Adaptation Strategies Working Group and agreed that it would be easier to discuss this topic once the working groups have released their reports.

Members said that Bill Walker, Lewis Gilbert, Jim LaGro, and other interested members should take part in preparing the "Developing Adaptation Strategies" section of the Adaptive Assessment Report.

Jim LaGro noted that policy research should be conducted to develop a coherent understanding of what the opportunities and challenges will be in implementing adaptation strategies.

Action Item: Lewis Gilbert, Bill Walker, Jim LaGro, and Jack Sullivan will give a presentation about the potential Adaptation Strategies Working Group at the December Science Council meeting.

Agricultural Working Group

Members discussed the difficulty in starting an Agriculture Working Group. Bill Walker said that an agriculture working group could focus specifically on agronomy and related disciplines. Science Council members also said that well functioning working groups have active leaders, and no one has been available for this topic.

Action Item: Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, Lewis Gilbert, Pete Nowak, Chris Kucharik, and Bill Bland will meet to discuss the prospect of starting and Agriculture Working Group.

Steve Pomplun and other said that involving faculty from CALS and UW-Platville. David Liebl mentioned the CIAS center in CALS as another center of interesting people to tap.

Future Agenda Items

Ask Roy Thilly about the relationship between mitigation and adaptation.

policies pa	assed in Wisco	onsin (possib	oly December	r)	
[3:00] Meeti	ng adjourned.				

Meeting Agenda - October 5, 2009

12:00	1 –	Welcome and Introductions
12:15	2 –	Announcements and Approval of Minutes from the July 20 and September 1 Science Council
		meetings
12:25	3 –	 Steve Pomplun will contact Wisconsin Climate Change Action Initiative and see how WICCI could work with them. Lewis Gilbert will consult with UW's attorneys about the legal ramifications of the UW Center for Climatic Research releasing climate findings as part of WICCI's Wisconsin Climate Working Group. Each chair of a working group will send a slide to Dan Vimont that shows vulnerabilities of their sectors and how they relate to climate. Dan Vimont will forward a report on best practices in downscaling climate models to the Science Council.
12:30	4 –	Advisory Committee Meeting Overview (Lewis Gilbert and Pete Nowak)
12:50	5 –	Working Group Workshop Overview (Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson and Alison Coulson)
1:30	6 –	Break
1:40	7 –	WICCI Adaptive Assessment Report (Dick Lathrop and Jack Sullivan)
2:10	8 –	Outreach Activities Update (Steve Pomplun, David Liebl and Alison Coulson)
2:30	9 –	New Working Groups
2:45	10 –	Request for Agenda Items for November 2 Meeting
2:50	11 –	Science Council Membership (closed session)
3:00	12 –	Adjourn

Announcements

- We've invited Don Wuebbles, the Harry E. Preble Endowed Professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois. He recently stepped down after being the first Director of the School of Earth, Society, and Environment. Among his many achievements:
 - * was a lead author on the first and second international assessments of climate change sponsored by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) -- co-authored development of the Global Warming Potentials concept being used in policy considerations on greenhouse gases and their potential effects on climate.
 - * was a leader in assessments of the potential impacts of climate change on the Great Lakes region, the U.S. Northeast, and the city of Chicago, and most recently has been a member of the team preparing a new assessment of the understanding of potential climate impacts of climate change on the United States for the U.S. Government.

Ve're waiting f ublic lecture a	for confirmation at UW at 4:00	n, but we exp p.m. that day	pect him to n	neet with the	Science Counc	cil on Nov. 2 a	ınd deliver